

## WAR'S LATEST GHOSTS.

## Weird and Wonderful Tales of Spirit Visitors That Come From Front.

There is the story of two Tommies, who were doing outpost duty "somewhere in France," and one suddenly said to the other:

"I say—look there!"

"Look where?" replied the other, loath to take his eye off a possible German head that might expose itself.

"Just there," said the other. "See—that dear old lady in gray—over there."

The other turned his head. "Good Lord! My mother!" he exclaimed, half rising in his excitement. He fell back dead, with a bullet in his brain.

Then there is the tale of the heir of a well-known title and family, whose life was miraculously saved by his being pinned down by a "powerful invisible hand" just as he wanted to stand up when he would have been struck by a shell. It is not explained why so many other heirs to titles were abandoned to their fate by the "invisible helpers."

A Royal Artillery officer, the author relates, had a strange presentiment one evening at 7 o'clock, and acting upon it, although all the men and horses were comfortably ensconced for the night, he went and moved them all, telling his orderly to put his bed in the basement. At midnight a shell screamed through the night, landing and bursting in the very spot from which he had moved his men and horses. A fragment of the shell shattered the windows of the room in which he was to have slept. This officer is said to have told his brother officers, before retiring at 9 o'clock, that he had a feeling something was about to happen.

A woman went to a firm in London and ordered a fountain to be put up in Westminster in memory of her son, who was reported killed at the battle of Mons. When the base had been finished she ordered the work discontinued, stating that she had "a very strange feeling" that her son was still alive. Two weeks later she learned that he was truly alive. This is cited by the author as "a case of psychic sensitiveness."

A woman friend of the writer related to him that, when the news from Russia was darkest, she was walking in Oxford Circus, in London, and saw a newspaper man displaying a poster on which seemed to be printed in large type, "Great Russian Rally!" She called it to the attention of a sister, who exclaimed:

"What do you mean? It says, 'The Dead Brides' Case.'"

The sister was right, as a second glance showed, but the next day, at the same spot, they saw another poster, "Great Russian Rally." It proved that the news had arrived the day before, at the very hour when the woman thought she saw it announced by poster, and had been held up 24 hours by the war office. The author's suggestion is that his friend received the news clairvoyantly a day before it was made public.

From letters communicated through automatic writing by a Mrs. C—, who died three years ago, to her sister, it appears that the spirit world arranged to have 140 officers of the Salvation Army on board the Empress of Ireland when she sank, so that they could aid in welcoming the ghosts of soldiers killed in the war. Extracts from the letters are given in this book:

"August 6, 1914. This war is full of pain and tragedy, yet the light it sends here is much purer and finer than I would have thought could come with carnage. The men have more thought of God in them in the danger and horror of battle than they would have when working ordinarily at home. We are used to help them, picking out our affinities by the lights of their auras."

"August 21. Alfred (her dead brother) and I are allowed to help comfort the dead soldiers, who are coming here in thousands. No, we don't use language, light, colors and thought expressions; no word language is needed here."

"September 6. For some time before the war special preparations were going on here for dealing with large numbers of people, and it was part of the plan that the Empress of Ireland had 140 Salvation Army officers on board when she sank. These were needed to form a good link between the military life and the religious life for the special interworld duties consequent on the war."

"The experience of sudden death of the Salvationists (and of Stead and his companions earlier) made them especially valuable, and they are now used for the most important organization and educational work in connection with the vast number of men hastily flung into the next world."

"December 18—I aid in comfort the lonely soldiers and their wives. I go to the wives on earth in the nighttime, but we have to meet the soldiers in the day time. Most of these are so tired emotionally that all they

want is rest and quiet at first. Sometimes they are like mad people when they find they have no physical body, and we have to keep them as if imprisoned here. Then desolation and loneliness and reaction come on them and we help in cheering them up. We bring beautiful new sights, colors and inventions before them to distract their minds."

"Nearly all are interested in finding they can fly. Aviation has made such a tremendous impact on the minds of the combatants. It is a sign that human beings are now in touch with this life where flying is the natural means of moving about."

"October 1, 1915—We are very busy now. We are both at the front helping some poor soldiers, some of whom do not realize that they are dead, so that we have great trouble in preventing them from frightening the other soldiers. Many of those Tommies have such thick spiritual skins that nothing short of war's alarms could make them conscious of their souls or of God. The war will bring about great good, and women will get the vote of it, too, but it will last a good while."

The hint given that the death of William T. Stead on the Titanic was planned so that he might be available as one of the reception committee for dead soldiers in the spirit land brings up again the famous story of the British museum mummy, which may have been employed by the benevolent spirits to bring about that great ocean disaster. The tale is told in the book.

She caused the case to be photographed, with the weird result that the picture showed a woman's face entirely different from that visible to the eyes upon the case. The photographer died soon afterward. To get rid of the hoodoo, the owner presented it to the British museum. The carrier who took it there died in the same week; the man who helped to remove it broke his arm, and soon after the arrival of the case two attendants in the mummy room died. The editor of a newspaper who had the temerity to publish the photograph of the case died soon afterward.

An English peeress and her daughter went to the museum to see the case. The daughter remarked that she didn't care for "that silly old mummy," and made a grimace at the case. On leaving she tripped and fell on the steps, breaking her ankle.

Another lady versed in Egyptology painted a picture of the case, but took the precaution of placing a plate of apples in front of the case. These presumably absorbed the malevolent influences for they were invariably found withered the next morning.

By this time the mummy case began to get on every one's nerves, and it was removed to the basement of the museum. Not long afterward, as reported in the London newspapers, there was an explosion of escaping gas in the basement and a gasfitter and his mate were severely injured.

Then, says the author, an expert on the subject, who was examining the mummies in the museum, found that this particular case was missing, and that it had been replaced by a clever imitation, he questioned the curator, who finally admitted that the museum officials had been so worried over the curious train of ill-fortune following the owner of the case that they sold it to an American multi-millionaire who made them a handsome offer for the curio.

The case was shipped to America, the curator continued, on the maiden voyage of the Titanic! Today, presumably, the mischief-making relic lies at the bottom of the Atlantic ocean.

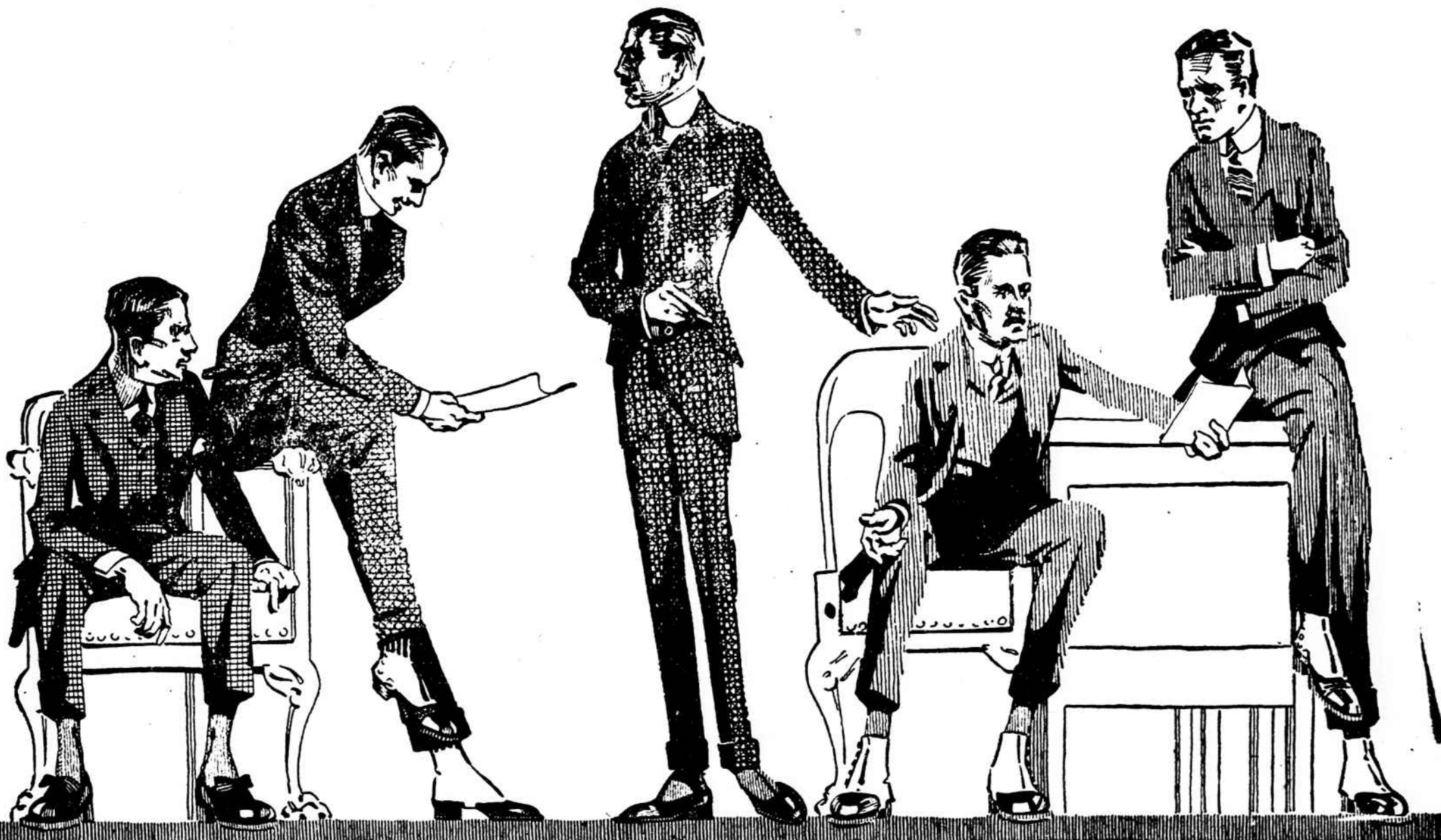
According to the author, it is widely believed in England that Admiral Jellicoe is a reincarnation of Francis Drake, whose spirit also animated Nelson, in popular opinion. King Albert, of Belgium, is hailed as the re-embodiment of William the Silent, who freed the Netherlands from the yoke of Spain. These quotations may come to an end with "The Strange Tale of an Astral Spy," as related by Crawford:

"For a long and drearily monotonous time A—B— had been lying desperately ill in a nursing home, but when the crisis of his illness passed he fell into a deep sleep and had a curious dream."

"In the dream he was commanded by an invisible agency to get up from his bed, go to a certain little book-seller's shop in the Strand—and he had never heard of the shop—buy a designated book, the very name of which was unknown to him, turn to a special page, and from the directions found there, to make a model that would be very important and useful in submarine and aerial warfare. Then he was instructed to 'write to a friend, and borrow a specified book, which would give further details useful to the invention.'"

"The dream so obsessed him that he worried and implored his nurses to take him out to the shop, until,

(Continued on page 6, column 2.)



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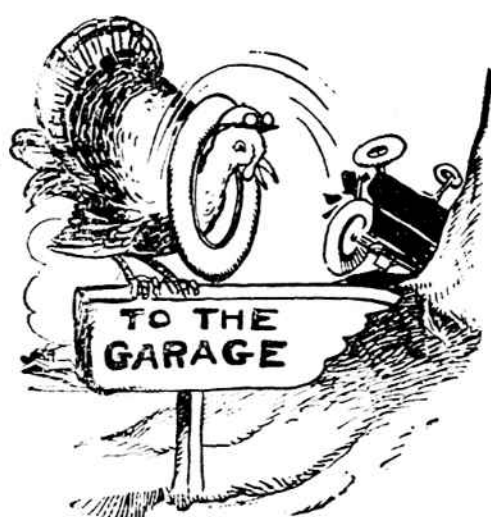
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